

***City of Alexandria, Virginia***

***Alexandria Beautification Commission***

*P.O. Box 178*

*Alexandria, Virginia 22313*

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 9, 2020

7:30 PM

Charles Houston Recreation Center  
901 Wythe Street

**Attendees:** Kathryn Chiasson (Chair), Chris Peterson (Vice Chair), Emily Freeland (Secretary), Richard Dorrier, Christina Kang, Christina Mazurkevich, Denise Tennant, Eleanor Quigley

**Excused Absences:** None

**Unexcused Absences:** Mary Enschede, Donald Kent, Geoff Montross, Monica Murphy

**City Staff:** Oscar Mendoza

**Community Members:** None

The meeting called to order at 7:34 PM.

- 1. Approval of November 14, 2019, Meeting Minutes** – Item 8. Public Comment/Discussion, section i) “the storm water project” should change to “the median”. Also section ii)i) should be eliminated. Ms. Mazurkevich made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Tennant. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes with discussed modifications.
- 2. Membership Updates** – Christina Kang introduced herself as a new member to the Commission.
- 3. Commission Business**
  - a. Procedure Review: Calendar Requirements**
    - i. Mr. Mendoza provided a procedures update.
    - ii. Commission meetings and agendas must be available to public by the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.

1. Memorandum to Board and Commission Members and Staff Liaisons on Freedom of Information Act, dated February 28 2014, provided to ABC Commission, see attachments.

**b. Subcommittee Updates**

i. Awards

1. No updates
2. The subcommittee will NOT meet this month.

ii. Outreach

1. ABC Position Paper provided to ABC Commission for review, see attachments.
2. Ms. Quigley questioned the formatting of the paper and requested that it be more engaging. Text will be used/formatted in future for application, for example use on Facebook page or included in brochures.
3. Ms. Chiasson made a motion to adopt the ABC Position Paper and seconded by Ms. Mazurkevich. The Commission unanimously approved this decision.
4. There will be NO meeting on Wednesday, January 15 2020.

iii. Sustainable Landscaping

1. City finished median at Warwick Village – Subcommittee should collect photographs of before and after.
2. Trees will be installed at Warwick Village and Quaker Lane medians in March 2020.
3. Demonstration planters at Market Square are in place.
4. Subcommittee will prioritize coming up with clear criteria for median projects to facilitate selection process.
5. The following two City programs can provide funding for the median projects: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and applying for a Community Matching Fund.
6. Mr. Mendoza stated that the City mows 325 medians Citywide.
7. Discussion followed on how to get ideas for new projects – Is crowd sourcing an option? Is there a way to engage with community members?
8. Subcommittee will discuss potential new project sites at February meeting, with goal of choosing a new site by March 2020.

iv. Vacant Lots

1. Kettle Park is essentially complete, which marks the end of a four-year project. Signage, thanking its contributors, to be installed.
2. The subcommittee is in the process of selecting a new site and engaged with the City for recommendations. City Staff identified the following sites: Ewald Park and Flagpole Park.
3. There was a tour of Ewald Park, located at the intersection of Duke Street and S Jordan. The City is in process of removing an existing pool and planning updates to park. It is a large project, so ABC would engage in only a part of the project.

4. Flaggpole Park, located near 3620 Edison Street serves as an entrance to Four Mile Run. This is a project site that ABC could take and complete project in entirety.

**4. New Commission Business**

- a. **Open Space Steering Committee** – Ms. Tennant will represent the Alexandria Beautification Commission as a liaison to the Open Space Steering Committee.

5. **Staff Report** – Beautification Commission Staff Report, dated January 2020, provided to ABC Commission, see attachments. There were no comments on report.
6. **Agenda Items for Thursday, February 13, 2020 Meeting** – The February meeting will focus on establishing subcommittee members and leadership.
7. **Public Comment/Discussion** – No Comments

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Attachments:

1. ABC Outreach Position Paper, January 2020
2. Beautification Commission Staff Report, January 2020
3. Freedom of Information Act Report, February 2014